

Art Unit: ***

CLMPTO

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Claims 1 – 9 have been amended

1. (Amended) A method for the production of an immunostimulant milk product, said method comprising carrying out bioconversion on a milk substrate with the aid of a *Bifidobacterium* culture by keeping said substrate in contact with said culture, under conditions which are unfavorable to fermentation by *Bifidobacterium*.

2. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the milk substrate and the *Bifidobacterium* are brought into contact at the rate of 1×10^7 to 1×10^8 CFU per ml of milk substrate, and the final *Bifidobacterium* population at the end of the bioconversion reaction is 1×10^7 to 1×10^8 CFU per ml of product.

3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pH of the milk substrate during the bringing into contact with the *Bifidobacterium* is 6.3 to 7 and the pH of the product at the end of the bioconversion reaction is 6 to 7.

4. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the duration of contact between the milk substrate and the bacteria is 6 to 24 hours.

5. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a *Bifidobacterium* culture comprising the *Bifidobacterium breve* strain deposited on May 31, 1999, under the number I-2219 at the CNCM, is used.

6. (Amended) A milk product obtained by the method as claimed in claim 1.

7. (Amended) The milk product as claimed in claim 6, wherein its pH is 6 to 7.

9. (Amended) The milk food as claimed in claim 8, wherein its pH is 6 to 7.5.

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Claim 10 has been added

10. (New) The milk food as claimed in claim 9, wherein its pH is 6.5 to 6.9.

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